

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are in the application.

Claims 1, 12, 27, 30 and 32 are amended.

Claims 37-40 are new.

The specification is objected to as including embedded hyperlinks, which are allegedly prohibited by MPEP 608.01. Applicants have amended pages 22 and 28 to eliminate “http://” which is believed to comply with the examiner’s request.

The Information Disclosure Statement (form 1449) is objected to, and a substitute is provided herewith. No fee is believed due in connection with this resubmission since the references properly accompanied the submission, and therefore the Examiner’s substantive review was not hampered.

Claim 1 is amended in accordance with the Examiner’s suggestion.

Claims 12 and 30 are amended to correct technical errors.

Claims 1 and 27 are amended to eliminate the alternate coverage of content or linkage based hierarchal organizational structure in favor of “providing an hierarchal organizational structure in graphic format for the set of objects, wherein at least a portion of the selected objects are automatically organized in the hierarchal organizational structure based on an associated object content” (claim 1) or “means for presenting an hierarchal organizational structure in graphic format for the set of objects, wherein at least a portion of the selected objects are organized within the hierarchal organizational structure based on an associated object content.” (claim 27).

Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Hazlehurst et al. (US 5,974,412) in view of Leshem et al. (US 6,470,383), and some claims further in view of Hao et al. (US 6,377,287 [hyperbolic tree]), or Hanson (US 5,974,398 [paid advertising]).

The Examiner states that Hazlehurst et al. teaches mappings of documents in a semantic information space, but not resource locators of objects. However, more importantly, Hazlehurst et al. do not teach or suggest the use of a hierarchal organization of documents. Wordnet® 1.6, (1997 Princeton University), provides the following definition of “hierarchal”:

adj : classified according to various criteria into successive levels or layers; "it has been said that only a hierarchical society with a leisure class at the top can produce works of art"; "in her hierarchical set of values honesty comes first" [syn: hierarchical, hierarchic] [ant: nonhierarchical].

It is clear that there is not practical basis for the application of the adjective “hierarchal” to the process or result of the disclosure of Hazelhurst et al.

Leshem et al., involves the use of internal linkage relationships between documents to map relationships between documents. On the other hand, the application of this disclosure to Hazlehurst et al., is not apparent, since the techniques are inconsistent, and possibly antithetical. That is, Hazelhurst et al. employ document content to define display layout, while Leshem et al. employ document hyperlinks, which are content independent, to define display layout. Both techniques cannot be used simultaneously with any defined or enabled result, and neither reference provides any motivation for modification in the manner suggested by the Examiner. There is simply no way to consistently apply the teachings of Leshem et al. to the teachings of Hazlehurst et al., since each uses a distinct and inconsistent tactic for representing a relationship of documents. In the alternate, neither reference enables a result which provides a content-sensitive hierarchal organization of documents. In either case, the obviousness rejection must fail.


On the other hand, the present invention provides that the set of selected documents is organized in a hierarchal organization dependent on document content, for at least a portion of the documents.



Claim 32 is amended to be consistent with claims 2 and 28, that is, to make clear that the associated objects are defined as extrinsic objects. The cited references do not teach or suggest that extrinsic objects be provided within a hierarchy. While Hazelhurst et al. do discuss that the initial document set may be supplemented, as stated above, the failure to teach or suggest a hierarchal organization is a fatal deficiency. Leshem et al., on the other hand, define a set of documents presented on the basis of intrinsic links, and thus do not provide for inclusion of extrinsic objects, nor is there any rationale provided for the organization of extrinsic documents within the linkage map. Claim 35, as originally presented, included this same distinction.

New claim 37 (with dependent claims 38-40) are presented to provide a clean expression of the subject matter believed to be patentable in accordance with the arguments set forth above.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claims distinguish the references, and the application is therefore allowable.

Respectfully submitted,
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Page 22, 9th-10th paragraphs, please amend as follows:

[AVANTI homepage] <http://zeus.gmd.de/projects/avanti.html>

Fink, J., Kobsa, A., Schreck, J.: "Personalized hypermedia information provision through adaptive and adaptable system features: User modeling, privacy and security issues"

<http://zeus.gmd.de/UM97/Fink/Fink.html>

Page 28, first full paragraph, please amend as follows:

One hyperlink tree, a Hyperbolic Tree™ (Inxight Software Inc., Palo Alto CA), developed at Xerox PARC, is disclosed in John Lamping, Ramana Rao, and Peter Pirolli, "A Focus+Context Technique Based on Hyperbolic Geometry for Visualizing Large Hierarchies", CHI 95, http://www.acm.org/sigchi/chi95/proceedings/papers/jl_bdy.htm. See also, www.inxight.com, http://www.inxight.com/News/Research_Papers_Files/Z-GUI_Article.pdf?.